requested because the prior art fails to disclose establishing a point-to-point communication session between at least one user having a dynamically assigned IP address.

One of the major factors inhibiting dynamic communications over the Internet, and other computer networks, is the inability to obtain the current dynamically assigned network protocol address of a user process connected to the network. This problem is analogous to trying to call someone whose telephone number changes after each call. Applicants' invention provides techniques for determining the current dynamically assigned network protocol address of a user process connected to the network. One embodiment utilizes a dedicated server which acts as a network address/information directory from which calling processes can obtain information. When a first process connects to the network, the process logs-on to the server and provides the server with the network protocol address under which the first process is currently operating. A second process, wishing to establish communications with the first process, connects to the server and request the network protocol address under which the first process is currently operating. Upon receipt of the network protocol address of the first process, the second process establishes communications with the first process directly, without any intervention from the address/information server.

Perkins discloses a method for managing mobile communication unit TCP/IP address assignment. The mobile units 10 do not retain fixed IP addresses. Therefore, a plurality of IP addresses are allocated to a global gateway 18. These allocated IP addresses are subsequently dynamically assigned by the global gateway 18 to

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requesting mobile units 10 on a temporary or permanent basis, and are referred to as "pseudo-IP" addresses. *See* col. 4, ll. 49-65. A remote user may send messages to a mobile unit 10 having a pseudo-IP address. *See* col. 7, ll. 37-43. "However, only permanently situated mobile units 10 having a registered, permanent IP address may rely on conventional IP methods for point-to-point network communication" *See* col. 7, ll. 49-53. Therefore, Perkins fails to disclose establishing point-to-point communication between two, or even one process having a dynamically assigned IP address.

In contrast to Perkins, amended claims 21-23 recite allowing the establishment of "a point-to-point communication between said one process and one of said other processes" after receiving a query from one of the other processes. For at least this reason, claims 21-23 and thus the application should now be allowable.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and favorable action in connection with this application.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Kenyon and Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

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21. (Amended) A computer program product for use with a server operatively coupled over a computer network to a plurality of processes, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having program code embodied thereon the program code comprising:

     a.   program code configured to receive the current network protocol address of one of the processes coupled to the network;

     b.   program code configured to receive an identifier associated with said one process; and

     c.   program code configured to receive queries for one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one process from other processes over the computer network, and to allow the establishment of a point-to-point communication between said one process and one of said other processes.

22.   (Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising:

     a.   program code configured to receive a current network protocol address of a process coupled to a computer network;

     b.   program code configured to receive an identifier associated with said one process; and

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c.   program code configured to receive queries for one of the network

protocol address and the associated identifier of said one process from other processes

over the computer network, and to allow the establishment of a point-to-point

communication between said one process and one of said other processes.

23.   (Amended) In a computer system operatively coupled over a computer

network to a plurality of processes, a method comprising the steps of:

a.   receiving the current network protocol address of a process

coupled to the network;

b.   receiving an identifier associated with said one process;

c.   receiving a query for one of the network protocol address and the

associated identifier of said one process from another of the processes over the

computer network; and

d.   providing one of the network protocol address and the associated

identifier of said one process to a said another process over the computer network, if

the said one process is connected to the computer network, and to allow the

establishment of a point-to-point communication between said one process and one of

said another processes.